

Application No.: 09/938,551

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 dated January 21, 2005

Response to the Office Action of November 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A punch press comprising:

a press frame including an upper transferring and loading path and a lower transferring and loading path, wherein an upper cartridge capable of loading a punch tool and a lower cartridge capable of loading a die tool corresponding to the punch tool are freely movable in and out of the press frame via the upper and lower transferring and loading paths;

a ram for driving the punch tool loaded on the upper cartridge employed in the press frame; and

a cartridge transferring and loading means comprising an upper cartridge transferring and loading means and a lower cartridge transferring and loading means for transferring the upper and lower cartridges independently of each other along the upper transferring and loading path and the lower transferring and loading path, respectively, to a punch processing position[[,]] ~~enabling the upper and lower cartridges to be independently stored inside the press frame and discharged outside of the press frame.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The punch press according to claim 1, wherein said upper and lower transferring and loading paths respectively store at least two cartridges [[in]] at

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different positions in a longitudinal direction of the press frame, and the cartridge transferring and loading means transfers the at least two cartridges independently of each other.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The punch press according to claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

an engaging and disengaging member freely engageable and disengageable to a cartridge along the transferring and loading path,

wherein the cartridge transferring and loading means transfers the cartridge by transferring of the engaging member along the transferring and loading path when the engaging member is engaged to the cartridge, and the transferring and loading path and a transferring path of the engaging and disengaging member are a straight lined path.